

21R420

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

JUDICIAL DISTRICT 19C

FILED

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

ROWAN COUNTY

IN RE:

2021 AUG 12 P 4: 23

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

FACE COVERINGS

ROWAN CO., C.S.C

BY 16

**THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER** is being entered to ensure the fair and proper administration of justice and facilitate the orderly operation of the courts in Judicial District 19C. The undersigned enters this Administrative Order pursuant to the inherent authority of the Court and pursuant to the undersigned's administrative supervision and authority over the operations of the Superior Court District under N.C.G.S. 7A-41.1 as Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for the 19C Judicial District of North Carolina.

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a highly contagious strain of coronavirus that can be spread from person to person; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has warned of the public threat posed by the Delta variant of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the CDC, individuals who are vaccinated but have had a breakthrough case of COVID-19 can still transmit the virus to others, and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC considers Rowan County to have a high transmission rate; and

**WHEREAS**, in the previous two weeks the number of positive cases in Rowan County has increased from 879 to 944; and

**WHEREAS**, Rowan County's positivity rate has increased to 16.8%, which the Rowan County Board of Health considers extremely concerning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rowan County Board of Health has recommended that all people in indoor public places wear face coverings, including those who have been fully vaccinated.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by the authority vested in the undersigned as Senior Resident Superior Court Judge pursuant to the inherent authority of the Court, N.C.G.S. 7A-41, and the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED**:

Face coverings shall be required of all persons in the Rowan County Courthouse. A person wearing such a face covering shall remove it upon request of the court if, in the judgment of the court, the

temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to enable the court, attorneys, jurors, or court reporters to properly hear the person, evaluate the person's credibility, or to make a necessary identification of the wearer.

It is further **ORDERED** that bailiffs and courthouse security officers are authorized to require a person entering into, or within, the Rowan County Courthouse to remove a face covering, if, in their discretion, the face covering poses a security concern or impedes the necessary identification of the person.

It is further **ORDERED** that signs will be placed at all entrances to the Rowan County Courthouse informing the public that the wearing of face coverings is mandatory.

It is further **ORDERED** that Rowan County shall provide face coverings to members of the public entering the Rowan County Courthouse free of charge.

This Order shall take effect on Monday August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

This Order is subject to amendment or supplementation by the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for Judicial District 19C should circumstances so require.

So **ORDERED**, this the 12th day of August, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. G.', is written over a horizontal line.

The Honorable Timothy G. Gould

Senior Resident Superior Court Judge